



Award of Educational Achievement

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement by High School Students in Academic and Technical Studies

Business, industry, colleges and universities are looking for students who have demonstrated that they have the potential to succeed. The *High Schools That Work* Award of Educational Achievement is a means of recognizing high school seniors who follow the path that leads to success instead of “just getting by.” These students are working hard in school and taking challenging courses to prepare for further learning after high school and/or employment in a chosen career path.

How Can You Qualify for the Award of Educational Achievement?

Students earn the Award of Educational Achievement by completing a college-preparatory course of study in at least two of three subject areas (English, mathematics and science) **and** a career/technical, mathematics/science or humanities concentration **and** by meeting readiness goals on the *High Schools That Work* Assessment.

A. College-preparatory Curriculum Requirements:

To qualify for the award, students must complete at least two of the following:

- Four credits in college-preparatory-level English
- Four credits in mathematics, with two of these credits in Algebra I, geometry or Algebra II, and a higher-level mathematics course such as trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus or the College Board’s Pacesetter Mathematics
- Three credits in science, with two of these credits in college-preparatory-level courses

B. A Career/Technical or Academic Concentrations:

1. The **Career/Technical Concentration** is composed of at least four credits in a broad technical or career field or major.
2. The **Humanities Concentration** is composed of four college-preparatory/honors courses in English/language arts, four college-preparatory/honors courses in social studies and four courses in an area of the humanities, such as foreign language, fine arts, or additional English and social studies courses. At least one course in English or social studies must be at the Advanced Placement level.
3. The **Mathematics and Science Concentration** is composed of four college-preparatory/honors courses in mathematics and four college-preparatory/honors courses in science. At least one course in either mathematics or science should be at the Advanced Placement level.

C. Assessment Performance Requirements. In order to qualify for the award, students must meet or exceed the *High Schools That Work* readiness goals set by SREB in reading, mathematics and science on the *High Schools That Work* Assessment.

Award Description

Students who qualify for the award receive:

- A personalized award certificate
- A letter of congratulations from SREB

Award recipients are typically recognized by their school and the community at the high school graduation ceremony, school awards assembly or in the local newspaper. The award is also a valuable accomplishment to include on a résumé and/or college entrance and scholarship applications.

About High Schools That Work

The Southern Regional Education Board's *High Schools That Work* (HSTW) initiative is the nation's largest effort to combine challenging academic courses and modern career/technical studies to raise the achievement of students. *HSTW* is based on the belief that students enrolled in career/technical programs can master complex academic and technical concepts if schools encourage students to make the effort to succeed. Currently, *HSTW* has 1,100 participating high schools in its 32 member states.

What Has the Award Meant to Other Students and Parents?

Students have said:

“I have been tied down with family responsibilities and did not think I had the capability or the opportunity to do anything. The award signaled to me that I could do something with the rest of my life.”

“BellSouth offered me a job because of this award! The award was a great gesture to me, and I loved the opportunity it gave me.”

Parents have said:

“As a family, we’re celebrating. Hard work pays off!”

“My daughter has never received any recognition in high school. This award is very special to us.”

“My son was so excited to receive the award! He learned a great deal in school. I’m sure the school must be proud. It deserves a medal, too!”

“The idea that a company or a business might give a helping hand to my daughter is saying something very important to our young people.”

Additional Information on the Types of Courses and Assignments that Will Help Students Qualify for the Award

- **English classes** that require students to read several books and articles each semester, complete thoughtfully written papers and formal oral presentations for a grade, write coherent essay responses to complex questions, and short and long research papers.
- **Mathematics classes** such as Algebra I, geometry and Algebra II, which provide challenging content and require students to solve complex problems.
- **Science classes** such as college-preparatory biology, chemistry, principles of technology and physics that require students to demonstrate and use scientific concepts in a laboratory setting, develop and evaluate the design of an experiment, and interpret and use information from text and graphs.
- **Career/technical classes** that require students to use academic and technical knowledge and skills to complete challenging assignments and projects that include solving open-ended problems, conducting research, synthesizing findings in written and oral reports, and designing and producing products and services.